

Message Text

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TAGS:PGOV, EGEN, MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, APRIL 20, 1978

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/J - NICHOLAS PLATT

1. RIVERS, HEGINBOTHAM AND PLATT BRIEF CONGRESS (LOU)

TO PREPARE FOR PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S MEETINGS WITH CONGRESS, RIVERS, HEGINBOTHAM AND PLATT BRIEFED STAFFERS ON THE SENATE'S FINANCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES AND THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES ON APRIL 20. WE FOCUSSED ON JAPANESE AND US PERFORMANCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRAUSS-USHIBA JOINT STATEMENT DRAWING ESPECIALLY ON REPORTING IN TOKYO 5045-STRAUSS-USHIBA FOLLOW-UP: STATUS REPORT NO. 2.

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2. AMBASSADOR TOGO CALLS ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM (LOU)

AMBASSADOR TOGO PAID AN INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM APRIL 18. IN MEETING THAT LASTED ONLY 20 MINUTES, CONVERSATION FOCUSSED ON UPCOMING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND PROSPECTS FOR CONCLUSION OF JAPAN/PRC

PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. RE FORMER, TOGO NOTED THAT SUBSTANTIAL PART OF SUMMIT TALKS WILL PROBABLY DEAL WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT FUKUDA WAS DOING ALL HE COULD AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO STIMULATE THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY AND REDUCE JAPAN'S TRADE SURPLUS, BUT THAT SO FAR THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY MATERIAL CHANGE IN THE STATISTICS. THEREFORE, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE COMING TO WASHINGTON IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE STRONG ROLE THE US HAD PLAYED IN ASIA AND DISCUSS FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND JAPAN TO ASSURE STABILITY IN ASIA.

TOGO ACKNOWLEDGED THERE HAD BEEN PRESS REPORTS OF NEW MOVES TOWARD A PFT. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT DETECT ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN THE PRC POSITION TO WHICH PEKING HAD HELD VERY FIRMLY FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS. JAPAN WAS NOT PREPARED TO CONCLUDE ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE LOOK OF ALLIANCE AGAINST THE USSR. IF THE PRC MADE A LITTLE NOD IN THE DIRECTION OF JAPAN'S POSITION THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN CONCLUDING THE TREATY. IN THE MEANTIME, THE ABSENCE OF A TREATY MADE LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN JAPAN-PRC RELATIONS.

3. USMC CHANGES (SECRET)

WE GAVE DOD THE GREEN LIGHT TO BRIEF THE GOJ ON THE EX-
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PANSION OF A NEW ASSIGNMENT POLICY FOR USMC UNITS IN JAPAN. BASICALLY, THE MARINES ARE SWITCHING FROM A POLICY OF ASSIGNING INDIVIDUALS ON TWELVE-MONTH PERMANENT TRANSFER TOURS TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF WHOLE UNITS (E.G., AN AVIATION SQUADRON) ON A 6-MONTH TDY BASIS. THE PRINCIPAL RATIONALE IS THAT THE TDY PROCESS PERMITS MARINE FAMILIES TO REMAIN IN BASE HOUSING IN THE US AND SEPARATIONS ARE SHORTER, THUS REDUCING FAMILY STRAIN AND EXPENSE. THE USMC ALSO POINTS OUT THAT DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS WILL LIKELY BE REDUCED BY THE TRANSFER OF INTACT, ORGANIC UNITS AS OPPOSED TO INDIVIDUALS. WE HAVE NOW APPROVED THE SECOND PHASE OF THIS PLAN (THE FIRST PHASE LAST OCTOBER INVOLVING THE DEPLOYMENT OF ONE INFANTRY BATTALION AND THREE AVIATION SQUADRONS TO JAPAN IN FY 1979- THE USMC HAS REPEATEDLY REAFFIRMED THAT THE NEW POLICY MEANS NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER IN FORCE LEVELS AND, ON THAT BASIS, WE HAVE APPROVED. WE ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTIES WITH THE GOJ, ALTHOUGH SUCH MATTERS HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY EXPLAINED IN VIEW OF PRESENT JAPANESE NERVOUSNESS.

4. URANIUM ENRICHMENT PREPAYMENT SCHEME

DOE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN COORDINATING A USG RESPONSE TO JAPAN'S OFFER TO PREPAY ABOUT \$1 BILLION FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES ALREADY CONTRACTED BETWEEN NOW AND THE MID-1980'S. DOE, WANTS CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THE MONEY, E.G. BY TREASURY'S ESTABLISHING OF A SPECIAL INTEREST-EARNING ACCOUNT FROM WHICH DOE COULD DRAW (WITHOUT LOSS OF ANY APPROPRIATIONS) TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CASH FLOW IN ITS ENRICHMENT OPERATIONS.

WE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR AN ARRANGEMENT THAT SATISFIES THE LEGAL, BUREAUCRATIC AND POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS ON BOTH SIDES. A DOE TEAM (GERRY HELFRICH AND PETER BRUSH) WILL TRY TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM JAPANESE NEEDS REGARDING INTEREST PAYMENTS AND "CONTROL" OVER THE SERVICES WHILE IN SECRET

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TOKYO APRIL 24-25; THEIR REPORT SHOULD PROVE CONCLUSIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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